(c) The expected commissioning dates of the on-going project(s) are as follows:

	Project	Commissioning Date
i.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97
ii.	Gazuwaka B/B Project HVDC	2/99
iii.	Sasaram B/B HVDC	3/2000
iv.	400 KV Bongaigaon—Malda	3/98
v.	Talcher—Bangalore HVDC	2001-02
vi	(a) Ib Valley—Jaipur HVDC	12/2001
	(b) Ib Valley—Raipur AC system	6/2001
vii.	400 KV Raipur—Rourkela	2001/02
viii.	Chandrapur B/B HVDC	11/97

[Translation]

Shortage of Power in Bihar

63. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is surplus power in eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite surplus power in the region, there is acute shortage of power in the Eastern States particularly in Bihar which caused closure of small scale industries of the region; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Eastern Region is having surplus power during off-peak period. However, there is peak deficit in varying degree in all the States in the Region.

(c) and (d) The energy and peaking shortage in the Eastern Region including Bihar during April-October, 1997 and in Oct., 1997 is given below:—

State/System	Energy shortage (%)		Peaking Shortage (%)	
	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97	April-Oct. 97	Oct., 97
Bihar	22.9	22.6	43.7	43.7
D.V.C.	5.1	5.4	25.4	20.1
Orissa	4.1	6.0	13.4	13.4
West Bengal	1.5	1.6	7.0	7.0
Eastern Region	7.2	7.9	20.0	20.0

In Bihar, there is no statutory power cut on industries. However, the main reasons for power shortage in Bihar is State's inadequate sub-transmission & distribution network, poor performance of thermal power stations of Bihar State Electricity Board and inability of the State Government to pay for the power from Central Generating Stations.

[English]

Common Minimum Programme

64. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken by the Government to implement their Common Minimum programme (CMP); and

(b) the specific achievement made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CGHS Facilities to Retired Persons

65. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after recent acceptance of recommendations of Fifth Central Pay Commission in a modified form, pensioners not covered under CGHS are entitled to reimbursement of cost of treatment as in-patients as applicable in the cases of serving employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission have recommended that:—

> "CS(MA) Rules, 1944 should be extended to pensioners, in a restricted manner so as to facilitate reimbursement of hospital recognised under CGHS or under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose. Such reimbursement claims should be settled in full by the respective Ministry/Deptt. of the pensioner under the provisions of CS(MA) Rules."

This proposal is under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Sanitations in Hospitals

66. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarrad Question No. 2385 on August 6, 1997 and state:

(a) the number of surprise checks of patients' toilets in Central Government Hospitals conducted during the last three years, hospital-wise;

(b) the status of officer who conducted surprise checking and the shortcoming found therein; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Medical Superintendents and Officers authorised by him go on rounds routinely to the OPDs and Wards to ensure proper cleanlines of toilets. In addition, Officers from Dte. G.H.S. have visited these Central Govt. Hospitals from time to time for surprise checks. The shortcomings noticed are rectified at the shortest possible time.

[English]

Earthquakes in Narmada Valley

67. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether earthquakes have occurred and measured on Richter scale in some areas of Narmada Valley of Madhya Pradesh on May 2, 1997 and thereafter;

(b) if so, the names of places where the earthquakes had occurred and the number thereof;

(c) the names of earthquake observatories where these earthquakes were measured and whether there was any difference in the measurement, if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any possibility of devastating earthquakes and whether there is a need to set up a permanent observatory so as to save loss by its forecast, if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to set up such observatory and if so, the place where this observatory is proposed to be set up and the capacity and cost thereof; and

(f) the area and depth in kilometres upto which the intensity of the earthquake could be measured at this observatory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER. K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A moderate earthquake of magnitude 6.0 on Richter scale occurred on 22nd May, 1997 in Jabalpur area followed by 23 aftershocks till 19.9.1997.

(c) The main shock of 22nd May, 1997 was recorded by most of the stations of India Meteorological Department's National Seismological Network.

Broad band Global Seismological Network (GSN) type of equipments recently set up at Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhuj, Bilaspur, Bokaro, Karad, Madras, Pune, Thruvanathapuram and Visakhapatnam recorded the main shock providing a unique data set. There is no difference in measurements in these observatories.

(d) to (f) Prediction of earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy on a scientific basis with regard to space, time and magnitude is not possible presently. Seismological network in the peninsular shield area is being upgraded under a programme supported by World Bank. India Meterological Department (IMD) has upgraded the observatory at Bhopal by setting up a Global Seismological Network (GSN) type of equipment under this programme. Also, it is proposed to set up a new observatory at Jabalpur. A multi-element telemetry system is proposed to be installed in Khandwal area. These intruments are state-of-art and can record both local and distant earthquakes.

Delayed Projects

68. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects approved by the Government which are still pending to be implemented and their details, Statewise;

(b) whether there is huge cost escalation of these projects due to delay in the implementation;

(c) the total extra burden on the Government due to delay in the implementation of the projects; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the projects in a scheduled time periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) As on 31.03.1997, there were 228 central sector projects on the monitor of the Department of the Programme Implementation which have been delayed. The details of such projects is given in the "Project Implementation Status Report" on central sector projects for the quarter ending March, 1997. A copy of the report is available in the Parliament library.